

# SPARK GAP

## Special Event Scheduled for Link

Calling all Astro-Hams! There will be an Amateur Radio Special Event held at the Link from Friday 10/22 through Sunday 10/24. This special event station will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the completion of Link observatory. We have obtained a 1x1 callsign from the FCC, W9L, and plan to be on the air on 80, 40, 20 and 10 meter bands. Notices have been placed in QST and CQ magazines for inclusion in their October issues. That weekend was selected because it will coincide with the Observer's Meeting, and the Moon will be full. This is a rain or shine event.

A respectable number of IAS members are licensed Amateur Radio operators. We're looking for volunteers willing to help coordinate, loan equipment, set-up, operate, log, tear down, or assist in other ways such as helping prepare confirmation certificates.

**W9L**  
**October 22nd to 24 th**  
**on the**  
**80,40, 20 and 10**  
**Meter bands**

If you AREN'T a Ham (why not?), don't worry! You don't have to be a Ham to participate in this special event, you just have to want to "Play Radio". Unlicensed individuals can operate under the supervision of a control operator. This will allow the "radio impaired" to get on the air and have a great time talking all around the country, and around the world, without having to have a license of their own. Contacting special event stations such as this is a

very popular aspect of the hobby. It's also a great way to try the hobby without making a big investment of time or money. And, you can do it even if it's CLOUDY!!

If you are interested in helping or participating, please contact **Rick Reneau, KB9NDF** at (317) 780-1803 or email at [kb9ndf@arrl.net](mailto:kb9ndf@arrl.net)

-- KB9NDF

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**CLUB MEETING**  
**AND**  
**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**  
**SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 8:00 AM**

# The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

## Membership      Newsletter

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is based in Franklin, Indiana. Membership is open to all amateur radio operators and other interested persons.

Club meetings are conducted on the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, IN.

Membership dues are \$18.00 per year for full members. Other types of membership are available.

Amateur Radio Operator License testing is offered following the club meeting during the months of March through November.

The club maintains an open repeater on the 2-meter band at 146.835 MHz. Each full member has access to the repeater and autopatch.

Membership dues payment and change of address should be mailed to the club treasurer at the address listed below.

The Spark Gap is the monthly club newsletter. Articles and information that would be of interest to the club members are welcome. Information may be submitted by E-mail or by mailing to the club address listed below.

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Charlie Sears  
(N9MEW)  
Dennis McKendree  
(KB9RWS)  
Steve Benson  
(N9NZI)  
Hershel Saylor  
(WD9GMM)

**Field Day**  
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(W8ISH)  
  
JR Osborne  
(KB9HSE)  
  
Larry Turner  
(KB9PWN)  
  
Al Soltis  
(WA9ZET)

**Activities**  
Jack Parker  
(W8ISH)  
  
Bob LaGrange  
(N9SIU)  
  
Other  
  
Appointments  
  
Pending

**Membership**  
Larry Turner  
(KB9PWN)  
  
Bill Goodall  
(K9DBY)  
  
Other  
  
Appointments  
  
Pending

### Active Committees



**MARC, PO Box 836, Franklin, IN 46131**

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# **MARC Repeater to be Tone Encoded**

## **151.4 Hz**

After the September club meeting the MARC repeater will have the CTCSS tone decoder activated. This means that you will have to turn on the CTCSS tone of 151.4 Hz on your transmitter.

This is normally a simple procedure. You do not have to turn on the tone in your receiver. However, If you do, then you will not hear the skip from the other interfering repeaters. Turn on the transmit tone NOW. You do not have to wait until after the repeater is changed. It will not stop you from accessing the repeater.

CTCSS tone encoders are in most modern radios. Most HT's have both encoders (transmitter) and decoders (receiver) built-in, and mobile units have encoders as standard, and decoders as an option. Some older

radios will require an add-on card, and there are external add-on boxes that can be placed in the mic lines.

If you need help programming your radio, contact the technical committee. Have the user manual available for the radio for which you need assistance. We are familiar with several radios, but not all.

This change to the repeater is being done to avoid the interference that we have been receiving. Any signal received by the repeater that does not contain the 151.4 Hz tone will be ignored. This will quiet the repeater from all of the extraneous kerchunking.

-- Charlie, N9MEW

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### **(CAMPAIGN STATEMENT)**

## **Matthew Payne**

### **Vice Presidential Nominee**

I propose that we concentrate as a club on several key issues.

- 1) Recruitment of new members.
- 2) Increased involvement in local civic activities.
- 3) Involvement of ALL members in critical club decisions.
- 4) Fiscal and operational security.
- 5) Adequate and realistic long range goals and planning.

The Mid State Amateur radio club has always benefited from strong leadership. My key priority as Vice President would be the recruitment of new members, without which further growth is impossible. I intend to assist in creating an atmosphere where the club members can freely contribute to the future direction of the club. Long range goals and plans would also be discussed to establish a realistic timeline for future club projects and activities. If elected, I look forward to continuing the fine tradition of leadership set by my predecessors.

# Severe Weather Spotting in Central Indiana

## Knowing Procedure is the Key!

By Dennis Boyle KB9RRN

Ah yes, it's fall. The weather is cooling down, the leaves are changing colors, and, for me at least, I find myself wearing pants to school more frequently than shorts. You might think that this is hardly the time to think about next spring's severe weather season, but now is the best time to begin planning! With the relatively quiet severe weather season in our region this year, central Indiana amateurs got very little practice spotting and reporting. For those of us directly involved with the county net or the **Central Indiana Skywarn Net**, we had about two county net call-ups, and somewhere in the neighborhood of five nets for our whole Skywarn district. For Indiana, that's not a lot of activity! With the La Nina weather phenomenon quieting down, some forecasters have predicted that our weather patterns should start returning to normal, and in all probability, we'll have a more active season next year. For Central Indiana, this is where Skywarn comes in.

Central Indiana Skywarn, as most of you know, is the volunteer weather spotting program designed to be the "eyes and ears" of the National Weather Service. Skywarn as we know it is primarily an amateur radio operation, but some may find it interesting to know that it is not limited to amateur radio operators. REACT groups and others have become spotter-trained and are able to participate in Skywarn at a non-amateur radio level.

The part of the Skywarn Program that involves amateur radio operators in Central Indiana is a volunteer organization whose primary goal is to relay potentially life-saving information to the National Weather Service at Indianapolis. Any licensed amateur may participate in Skywarn, as it is not limited to membership in any specific group (i.e. RACES, ARES) on any level. The Central Indiana Skywarn Net operates on the

**WA9RIA** repeater at 146.700, located at 700 feet on the **WTHR** tower in Indianapolis. This system is utilized for the regional net because it's superior height provides great coverage throughout all areas of central Indiana.

The net itself, which, according to Indiana State **RACES** Coordinator **Dave Crockett, WA9ZCE**, has operated in an **ARES**-type format since the mid-1980s, is activated upon request of the National Weather Service at Indianapolis. A good way to tell if the net is operating is to listen for the station **W9NWS**. This is the amateur radio station located at the National Weather Service, and is responsible for relay between the meteorologists and net control. Net control then organizes several liaison stations to attempt to activate the counties which are areas of concern, and to alert others to be in a standby mode if the severe weather comes their way later.

While it's a good idea to make sure that there are always several people who can help with the net on the county level, Central Indiana Skywarn Net Control Operator **Mark Shaffer, N9GDR**, says that it is not necessary to have "designated" net controllers for the county. Shaffer, in fact, encourages everyone to participate, and if someone is needed to run the net, any licensed amateur can do it. Once the county net is established, those amateurs that are on frequency and checked into the net are sent by the net controller to report upon areas of concern, according to the direction of **W9NWS**. All information from the Central Indiana Skywarn Net is relayed to the county nets by a liaison station, whose primary responsibility is to quickly and accurately relay information to and from the Central Indiana Skywarn Net. In recent years, an easy way to do this has been to have a dual-band 2m/440 radio, and monitor

Continued next page...

## Weather Spotting

(continued)

the county net on 2 meters while listening to the 443.75 W9DUU repeater, which is linked by N9GDR to the 146.70 during Central Indiana Skywarn Net activity. This way, with the press of a band selector button, one can transmit to the county net while still listening to the Central Indiana Skywarn Net for any calls or new information. Severe weather reports, including but not limited to measured wind gusts, cloud types and formations, broken trees, and type of precipitation are relayed between the two nets in this way. Upon being released by the Central Indiana Skywarn Net, the county net is permitted to secure after a count of mobile and base stations is relayed to the Central Indiana Net for their log. The county net is then permitted to secure.

If you are interested in learning more about severe weather spotting and the Central Indiana Skywarn Program, visit the Central Indiana Skywarn Website at <http://www.cisw.com/>. Here, you'll find a wealth of information about Skywarn in central Indiana, including spotter training, history, procedures, and maps and lists of frequencies used for Skywarn throughout the state. There are also links to Skywarn pages from other states for information about Skywarn in other parts of the country.

Next spring, when **WISH-TV**'s Doppler Radar turns red and the western skies turn black, let's be ready for it! If we learn and prepare all we can now, we'll be ready later for sure!

--KB9RRN

## Helping Hams

By Matthew C. Payne KB9UJE

**Barb Rogers, KB9NOG** will go to any height to help a fellow ham, literally...

Several Mid-State Amateur Radio club members recently got together at the home of fellow amateur **Bob DeSpain, N9DE** on an antenna building project. They were there to watch Barb, along with Mid State executives **AI, WA9ZET** and **Dave, KA9OOH** climb to new heights, all in an effort to set up a new dual band antenna for Bob.

Bob lost his lower legs several years ago, and thus was unable to complete the antenna installation on his own. Barb and **Paulette, KB9SRC** both jumped to his aid, completing

the installation in record time. Bob ran cables to the radio, and was on the air and talking, thanks to the kindness and dedication of several amateurs.

Bob was once a regular on several area repeaters, and assisted in emergency weather operations. He has wasted no time in testing his new antenna, and the author has enjoyed several QSO's with station N9DE in the past couple of weeks.

Please join us in welcoming Bob back on the air, and showing our appreciation to the hams who made it happen!

-- KB9UJE

## Because I'm a guy...

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Because I'm a guy, I must hold the television remote control in my hand while I watch TV. If the thing has been misplaced, I'll miss a whole show looking for it, though one time I was able to survive by holding a calculator.

Because I'm a guy, when I lock my keys in the car I will fiddle with a wire clothes hanger and ignore your suggestions that we call a road service until long after hypothermia has set in. Oh, and when the car isn't running very well, I will pop the hood and stare at the engine as if I know what I'm looking at. If another guy shows up, one of us will say to the other, "I used to be able to fix these things, but now with all these computers and everything, I wouldn't know where to start." We will then drink beer.

Because I'm a guy, when I catch a cold I need someone to bring me soup and take care of me while I lie in bed and moan. You never get as sick as I do, so for you this isn't an issue.

Because I'm a guy, I can be relied upon to purchase basic groceries at the store, like milk, or bread. I cannot be expected to find exotic items like "Cumin" or "Tofu." For all I know these are the same thing. And never, under any circumstances, expect me to pick up anything for which "feminine hygiene product" is a euphemism.

Because I'm a guy, when one of our appliances stops working I will insist on taking it apart, despite evidence that this will just cost me twice as much once the repair person gets here and has to put it back together.

Because I'm a guy, I don't think we're all that lost, and no, I don't think we should stop and ask someone. Why

would you listen to a complete stranger--how the heck could HE know where we're going?

Because I'm a guy, there is no need to ask me what I'm thinking about. The answer is always either sex or football, though I have to make up something else when you ask, so don't.

Because I'm a guy, I do not want to visit your mother, or have your mother come visit us, or talk to her when she calls, or think about her any more than I have to. Whatever you got her for mother's day is ok, I don't need to see it. Did you remember to pick up something for my mom, too?

Because I'm a guy, I am capable of announcing, "one more beer and I really have to go," and mean it every single time I say it, even when it gets to the point that the one bar closes and my buddies and I have to go hunt down another. I will find it increasingly hilarious to have my pals call you to tell you I'll be home soon, and no, I don't understand why you threw all my clothes into the front yard. What's the connection?

Because I'm a guy, you don't have to ask me if I liked the movie. Chances are, if you're crying at the end of it, I didn't.

Because I'm a guy, I think what you're wearing is fine. I thought what you were wearing five minutes ago was fine, too. Either pair of shoes is fine. With the belt or without it looks fine. Your hair is fine. You look fine. Can we just go now?

Because I'm a guy and this is, after all, the 90's, I will share equally in the housework. You do the laundry, the cooking, the cleaning, and the dishes. I'll do the rest.

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